

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 20209 311635Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 /069 W

-----046768 011424Z /50

R 311618Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20209

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PING EG  
SUBJECT: AL AHRAR DISAPPEARS FROM THE STANDS

SUMMARY: WEEKLY AL AHRAR, MOUTHPIECE OF OFFICIAL RIGHT WING PARTY, DID NOT APPEAR ON NEWSSTANDS LAST WEEK OF AUGUST. OFFICIAL EXPLANATION IS THAT PAPER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. THERE IS COME TRUTH TO THIS--LACK OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR ADVERTISING HAS HURT--BUT IT IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY. PAPER HAS OFFENDED EGYPT'S POLITICAL LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING TO EMBOFF AUGUST 31, PARTY LEADER MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD SAID HE WAS PRESENTED WITH 12,000 POUND BILL AT 10 P.M. AUGUST 27, THE NIGHT BEFORE PUBLICATION. PRINTER (AL AKHBAR'S MOUSSA SABRI) DEMANDED THAT THIS BE PAID EITHER IN CASH OR BY CERTIFIED CHECK. WHEN MURAD PROTESTED THAT THIS WAS PATENTLY IMPOSSIBLY, SABRI REFERRED HIM TO "HIGHER AUTHORITIES."

2. "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" INDICATED TO MURAD THAT HIS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 20209 311635Z

PARTY'S PUBLICATION WAS BEING SUPPRESSED BECAUSE OF OFFENSIVE ARTICLES. PAPER'S DEFENSE OF MUSTAFA AMIN AND EXPOSE OF COSTS SURROUNDING SADAT'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS IN ALEXANDRIA WERE SPECIFICALLY CITED. ADDITIONALLY, MURAD SAID PRIME MINISTER SALEM WAS OUTRAGED BY AL AHRAR'S REVELATION THAT HE HAD RESIGNED (CLAIM THAT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE REPEATED IN SUPPRESSED

EDITION). MURAD WAS TOLD THAT, IF HE CAME UP WITH  
REQUIRED 12,000 POUNDS, PAPER WOULD BE CONFISCATED  
JUDICIALLY.

3. MURAD APPEALED TO SADAT (APPARENTLY LATE SAME EVENING)  
WITHOUT SUCCESS. PRESIDENT TOLD MURAD AL AHRAR HAD BE-  
COME "TOO POINTED" AND IT WOULD BE BEST IF PAPER WERE NOT  
PUBLISHED "UNTIL PRESIDENT RETURNED FROM CAMP DAVID."

4. MURAD SUSPECTS THAT SOME OF SADAT'S ADVISERS--HE  
IDENTIFIED SALEM--HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT  
IT WOULD BE WISE TO BAN ALL OPPOSITION PAPERS UNTIL  
OUTCOME OF CAMP DAVID IS CLEAR. MURAD REJECTS THIS,  
POINTING OUT HE ACCOMPANIED SADAT TO JERUSALEM AND HAS  
CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT'S PEACE INITIATIVE  
(ALTHOUGH, PRIVATELY, MURAD NOW DOUBTS INITIATIVE WILL  
PROVE SUCCESSFUL). MURAD SAID HE WILL PURSUE THIS LINE  
WITH SADAT AT SCHEDULED MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 2, IN ISMAILIA,  
BUT DOUBTS IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. HE APPEARED RESIGNED  
TO FACT THAT HIS WEEKLY WILL MISS ITS NEXT FEW PUBLICA-  
TION DATES.

5. MURAD THOUGHT THIS EPISODE NOT IMPORTANT ITSELF, BUT  
SYMPTOMATIC OF DIFFICULTY SADAT CONFRONTS IN ATTEMPTING  
TO FOSTER MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY. HE CLAIMED MOST OF  
SADAT'S CLOSEST ADVISERS DO NOT BELIEVE IN THIS SYSTEM  
AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETURN EGYPT TO A ONE PARTY STATE.  
THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO MURAD, IS CONSTANTLY BEING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 20209 311635Z

FED BAD ADVICE.

6. COMMENT: DISAPPEARANCE OF AL AHRAR, FOLLOWING RE-  
PEATED CONFISCATION OF LEFTIST AL AHALI (SEIZED FOR  
THE 11TH TIME AUGUST 30) FURTHER TARNISHES SADAT'S  
RELIBERALIZATION CAMPAIGN. ADDED TO BANNING OF MUSTAFA  
AMIN AND OTHER GOVERNMENT CRITICS, TEMPORARY DISAPPEARANCE  
OF AL AHRAR CAN NOT BUT HAVE CHILLING EFFECT ON JOURNAL-  
ISTIC FREEDOM. MATTHEWS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWSPAPERS, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO20209  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780358-0003  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978081/aaaaaaeq.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f686fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1535437  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AL AHRAR DISAPPEARS FROM THE STANDS SUMMARY: WEEKLY AL AHRAR, MOUTHPIECE OF OFFICIAL RIGHT WING PARTY, DID NOT APPEAR ON NEWSSTANDS LAST WEEK  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, EG, AL AHRAR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f686fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014